

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 00358 091740Z

64

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 JUSE-00 SNM-02 DRC-01

RSC-01 /034 W

----- 054158

R 091711Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO DEA HQS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

SECSTATE WASHDC 6935

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 00358

FOR DEA HQS WASHDC EOI CUSACK, PASS TO REGIONS 14 AND 2

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CPRS, PFOR, U.K.

SUBJECT: ERNEST FRANZ COMBS, R1-73-0271

JAMES EARL GATER, FUGITIVE

REF: A. DEA 0131; B. STATE 3047; C. LONDON 0049

D. STATE 251129

1. PLEASE NOTE THAT REFTELS B, C, AND D WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY SENT TO AMEMBASSY PARIS OR DEA HQS WASHDC. SUGGEST SECSTATE REPEAT REFTELS B AND D AND WE WILL REPEAT REFTEL C.

2. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A, BRITISH CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF ITS CONTENTS. NO DIFFICULTIES ARE ANTICIPATED WITH REGARD TO ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN U.S. (AIRWAY BILLS, HOTEL REGISTRATIONS, ETC.) FOR USE IN THEIR CASE. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR THEIR RETURN TO THE U.S. FOR USE IN CASE THERE.

3. CONCERNING REFTELS B, C, AND D, GATER WAS ORIGINALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 00358 091740Z

ARRESTED BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES ON NOVEMBER 14, 1973 AT

THE LONDON AIRPORT FOR POSSESSION OF COCAINE. INVESTIGATION BY BRITISH AND U.S. AUTHORITIES HAD DETERMINED THAT GATER WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH COMBS AND OTHERS IN INTERNATIONAL HASHISH TRAFFICKING. HIS HEARING ON DECEMBER 28, 1973 HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY FORM OF SENTENCING AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL D, PARA. 5. THE HEARING ON THAT DATE WAS TO JOIN GATER WITH SIX OTHER DEFENDANTS BEING HELD ON CHARGES OF BEING CONCERNED WITH FRAUDULENT IMPORTATION OF HASHISH. HIS HEARING ON DECEMBER 28, 1973 WAS CONTINUED UNTIL JANUARY 9, 1974, AT WHICH TIME IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE HEARING WILL BE CONCLUDED AND THAT GATER WILL BE HELD FOR TRIAL ACTION WITH THE OTHER DEFENDANTS WITH WHOM HE WAS JOINED.

4. BRITISH CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES ANTICIPATE THAT GATER'S TRIAL WILL COMMENCE SOMETIME IN THE LATTER PART OF JAN. THEREFORE, REFTELS B AND C ARE NOT ACCURATE WITH REGARD TO COMMENTS CONCERNING HEARING.

5. CASE IS BEING CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY DEA/LONDON, AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE REPORTED AS THEY OCCUR.

6. SUGGEST U.S. ATTORNEY MENTIONED IN REFTEL B BE MADE AWARE THAT GATER IS BEING TRIED, AND, AT THIS TIME, WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHEN IT WILL ACTUALLY OCCUR. THE THREE-WEEK PERIOD ABOVE IS AN ESTIMATE FURNISHED BY BRITISH CUSTOMS; AND EVEN AFTER THE TRIAL BEGINS, IT IS EXPECTED TO LAST AT LEAST TEN DAYS. U.S. CASE WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL BRITISH CASE IS CONCLUDED.

SOHM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, SMUGGLING, IMPORTS, ARRESTS, FRAUDS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LONDON00358  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740154/aaaabyqi.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION L  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. DEA 0131; B. STATE 3047; C. LONDO, N 0049  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19-Jul-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <09 MAY 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ERNEST FRANZ COMBS, R1-73-0271 JAMES EARL GATER, FUGITIVE  
**TAGS:** SNAR, CPRS, PFOR, UK, (GATER, JAMES EAL)  
**To:** DEA HQS WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005